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March 19 2008 Meeting Minutes

Arlington Human Rights Commission Minutes - Final March 19, 2008

Present: Nancy Sweeney, Marlene Schultz, Christine Deshler, Vita Cohen, Marlissa Briggett, Jorge Loayza, Sheri Baron, Christine Carney

Absent: A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea

Guests: Arlington Common Threads members Janice Bakey and Cindy Friedman.

In the absence of Chair Minton, Commissioner Cohen chaired this meeting. She summarized the goals and missions of the AHRC to our guests. Marlissa summarized our dialogue program. Cindy discussed the goals of ACT which are to enhance and publicize the work that is being done in town around diversity issues. They hope to facilitate the information sharing and are working on how best to broadcast this information. The Commissioners and guests discussed concerns of possible overlap in goals between the two organizations.

The Commissioners discussed the issue of the audible signals on Summer Street. Commissioner Deshler had reviewed the Federal and state guidelines concerning audible signals. She indicated the guidelines were unclear. She made a motion to reconsider our previous vote to write a letter to the town asking the town to take responsibility in fixing the signals to conform to Federal regulations. Commissioner Baron seconded the motion. All voted to reconsider our previous vote. Commissioners Deshler and Cohen moved to offer mediation services between the town, neighbors and the disability community to come up with a solution. Commissioner Carney seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Sweeney reported on the meeting of the Mass. Human Rights Commissions at the Boston Public Library. There was an exhibit under the auspices of the Facing History program, including mini-films. The dialogue subcommittee will consider sponsoring field trips to interested citizens to such events.

The Dialogue subcommittee will meet before next month's meeting to plan next year's activities. A School Subcommittee member will talk to Nate Levenson about training for the teachers. The Policies and Procedures Subcommittee and Rapid Response Subcommittee had nothing to report.

Commissioner Baron submitted a grant on behalf of the AHRC to the Cambridge Health Alliance. The proposal is that we will have the Council on Aging brochure and Senior Center brochure translated into Mandarin Chinese and Hindi (Indian) to better serve the elderly population in Arlington.

Commissioner Carney moved to adjourn. Commissioner Briggett seconded. The meeting was concluded.

*Submitted by:
Commissioner Marlissa Briggett*

